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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1727  
INFO RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 003460

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [SN](#)

SUBJECT: GOS RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIA'S PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR  
ARF CO-CHAIR'S STATEMENT

REF: STATE 178680

¶1. (SBU) Australian High Commission Political Counselor Lucinda Bell met with Wong Chow Ming, Deputy Director of MFA's ASEAN Directorate, before reftel arrived to discuss proposed language for the ASEAN Regional Forum Chairman's statement.

¶2. (SBU) Wong told Bell that Australia's language was unlikely to be included in the Chairman's statement and that individual country objections were likely. He noted that, as co-host, Indonesia might be embarrassed by the proposed language due to its historically "special relationship" with the DPRK. Bell indicated that while Wong expressed doubt about its prospects for acceptance, Singapore did not question the merits of the statement.

¶3. (U) Embassy delivered reftel talking points to MFA separately on October 30.  
HERBOLD